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Kernan Names New Commerce Management Team

INDIANAPOLIS— In another major step in the modernization and restructuring of the Indiana Department of Commerce, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan appointed the remainder of the agency's management team today.

"I said from the beginning of this process that we were going to go out and get the very best Indiana had to offer – and if you look at our regional directors and at the appointments we are making today – it's clear that we have done that," said Kernan who serves as the director of Commerce. "I am excited about our new organization and am looking forward to working with this team as we move forward."

- **Chuck Martindale**, Commerce's regional operations manager, has been named deputy executive director for Professional Services. With Commerce for the past 13 years, prior to the agency's reorganization, Martindale worked as the agency's sole deputy executive director. In his new role, Martindale will oversee the agency's Professional Services team, which includes the Marketing and Public Affairs, Finance and Administration and Research and Information Systems divisions.
- **Mike Draper** has been named the manager of the Economic Development division. Currently the director of the Development Finance division, he has previously served as president of the Indiana Small Business Development Corp. and as deputy director of Commerce's Business Development division. As manager of Economic Development, Draper will oversee Commerce's domestic and international recruitment, tourism and film, international trade, entrepreneurship and existing business retention and expansion programs.
- **Niles Parker** has been named the manager of the Community Development division. Currently the director of the Energy Policy division, Parker has been with Commerce since 1989. In his new role, Parker will manage state and federal community development and energy programs dollars as well as the department's Main Street, Certified Sites and Rural Development divisions.

- **Wendy Dant Chesser**, currently serving as the director of the Indiana Rural Development Council, has been named director of Regional Operations for the Department of Commerce. Replacing Chuck Martindale, Dant Chesser will oversee the agency's 12 new regional offices and coordinate training and development programs for local officials.
- **Lynne Fuller** has been named the manager of Marketing and Public Affairs division. Currently serving as the director of Commerce's Tourism and Film Development Division, Fuller began with Commerce in 1993. Her new duties include overseeing Commerce's marketing, advertising, public relations and Web site activities.
- **Kelly Boe**, currently the director of the Controller's division, has been named manager of the Finance and Administration division. First joining Commerce in 1988, in her new role, Boe will manage the human resources, development finance, controller and grants management functions.

Lt. Governor Kernan announced plans to modernize the Department of Commerce in July after more than a year and a half of research. Since Oct. 1, Kernan has established 12 new regional offices, appointing directors and opening office locations.

For more information on the Indiana Department of Commerce, the new regional offices or its programs, contact Jeff Harris, media relations director, at 317.232.2464 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com

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